

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) Beverage can (1) having an exposed protective cover secured over a can lid area of the can, wherein the cover (3) is made of a non-laminated embossed aluminum foil and has a thickness in the range of approximately nine micrometers to approximately 15 micrometers.

2 and 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) Beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the depth of embossing of the aluminum foil is in the range from approximately sixty micrometers to approximately one hundred micrometers.

5. (Previously Presented) Beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the aluminum foil has vermicular embossing.

6. (Previously Presented) Beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) is joined to the beverage can (1) with adhesive.

7. (Original) Beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied to the central area of the can lid (1a).

8. (Previously Presented) Beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied to an upper can edge (1c).

9. (Previously Presented) Beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is one that must be activated and is applied to the protective cover.

10. (Previously Presented) Beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) has a substantially rotationally symmetrical shape.

11. (Previously Presented) Beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) has a polygonal shape.

12. (Original) Beverage can according to 11, wherein the protective cover (3) has several points progressing downward along the can (1).

13. (Presently Presented) Beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) conforms to a contour of the can lid (1a) and of an upper can edge (1c).

14. - 22 (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A protective cover blank and a beverage can combination, the beverage can having a non-planar lid area and the blank being conformable to the lid area in a ductile manner and being made of non-laminated embossed aluminum foil, wherein the aluminum foil has a thickness in the range from approximately 9 micrometers to approximately 15 micrometers, and wherein the depth of embossing is in the range from approximately 60 micrometers to approximately 100 micrometers.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 23, wherein said aluminum foil has vermicular embossing.

26. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 23, wherein the blank has a substantially circular shape.

27. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 23, wherein the blank has a polygonal shape.

28. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 23 wherein the blank has, on one side, a coating (3a) of adhesive that is one that must be activated.

29. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 35, wherein the zonal adhesive coating (3a) is arranged in a center of the blank.

30. (Previously Presented) Beverage can according to claim 9, wherein the adhesive is one that must be heat-activated.

31. - 33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 26, wherein the blank has a pull-off tab (23).

35. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 28, wherein the coating is a zonal coating applied to only a portion of the one side of the blank.

36. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 28, wherein the coating is a full surface coating applied to the entirety of the one side of the blank.

37. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 28, wherein the coating is an adhesive that must be heat activated.

38. (Previously Presented) Combination according to claim 29, wherein zonal coating is applied to the one side in a circular shaped pattern.

39. - 42. (Canceled)